



# Vendor Update

## A Publication of the Maryland WIC Program

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### Vendor Regulation Revised

The Maryland WIC Program is currently revising Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) covering the WIC Program. These federally mandated changes are designed to increase program accountability and efficiency in food delivery and related areas and decrease vendor violations of program requirements and loss of program funds. **The changes are scheduled to become effective in the Fall of 2002.** Some of the proposed changes are highlighted below:



- *Changing the methodology for maximum reimbursement from Regional Average to Peer Group Average.*
- *All sanctions with six month suspensions will be increased to 1 year.*
- *Sanction for providing credit and non-food items increased from a 1 year suspension to 3 years.*
- *Permanent disqualification for conviction in a criminal court stemming from violations.*
- *Sanctions imposed by the Food Stamp Program will be imposed by the WIC Program in turn.*

There will be a period opportunity for public comments prior to finalization and publication. You will be provided with notification of the same. If you have any questions, please contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258.

### New WIC Director

On April 17, Ms. Kathy Knolhoff became the Director of the Maryland WIC Program. Ms. Knolhoff has extensive experience in WIC, beginning in 1988 as a Public Health Nutritionist for WIC in Mobile, Alabama, and then serving as the Assistant Coordinator for a local WIC agency in Burlington County, New Jersey from 1990 to 1993. Ms. Knolhoff also served as the Director of the Community Clinic Incorporated's WIC Program in Montgomery County from 1996 until April 2000 before serving as Talbot County Health Officer. The Maryland WIC Program welcomes Kathy and looks forward to benefiting from her expertise.

### Store Receipts

As a result of compliance investigations, we have learned that there are stores not providing receipts to customers.



COMAR 10.54.03.15C(1)(f) requires that a receipt be provided at the time of purchase. Violation of this provision will result in (1) Written warning following each violation; (2) Suspension of authorization for 6 months for five violations of the same provisions within a 2-year period; (3) Suspension of authorization for 6 months for a combination of 15 violations within a 2-year period

### Vendor Contact Persons

Please promptly notify the WIC Program when your designated WIC contact person changes. This is especially important for chain store corporate contact persons. Having an individual designated for WIC matters helps us quickly resolve any problems or issues that



may arise. Please contact JoAnn McGowen at 410-767-5251 if your designated staff person has changed.

## WIC Authorized Food List



The WIC Authorized Foods List is currently being revised. These changes are expected to coincide with changes to the vendor regulations. Included in these changes are the addition of some newly introduced juices, and removal of food items no longer available. We will provide notification of changes and copies of the new list to all WIC authorized stores.



## Cashier Training

June 5, 2002	Montgomery County
August 5, 2002	Baltimore City
August 5, 2002	Carroll County
August 15, 2002	Prince George's County
August 16, 2002	Dorchester County
August 21, 2002	Wicomico County
August 22, 2002	Queen Anne's County
August 23, 2002	Washington County
August 28, 2002	Baltimore County
September 10, 2002	John's Hopkins WIC (Baltimore City)
September 16, 2002	Allegany County

**Pre-registration is required for all attendees. Contact Ms. Frances McRae-Washington at 410-767-5433 at least 5 days in advance.**

## WIC WINS Update

Implementation of WIC WINS, the Maryland WIC Program's new computer system is proceeding as scheduled. Implementation is scheduled for Prince George's County in July, Baltimore City in August and Montgomery County in September and will conclude this project. We appreciate the patience and



cooperation our vendors have shown during this transition. If you have any questions, please contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258.

## Moving or Selling Your Store?

If you are moving or selling your store please notify the Maryland WIC Program at least 15 days in advance. **Selling your store does not transfer your WIC authorization!** The new owner must apply to the Maryland WIC Program for authorization. You are also required to return your WIC vendor stamps to the Maryland WIC Program. If you have questions, or plan to sell your store, or relocate, please contact JoAnn McGowen at 410-767-5251.



## Vendor Feedback

We want to make your participation in the WIC Program a rewarding experience. **WE NEED YOU!** Your input is valued and strongly encouraged. If you have suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258.



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Happy Independence Day

